

## There's more than a library in proposal

The voters are the rabbit and Eugene's proposed library is the carrot dangling in front of the rabbit's nose. Voters will be asked Tuesday to approve \$56.2 million in general obligation bonds, financed through an increase in property taxes. The new library is the cornerstone of the proposal, but it is less than half the cost of the measure.

The most expensive part, maintenance of city buildings, eats up \$33.8 million of total cost to voters. The library, the second most costly item, has a proposed cost of \$19.1 million. Activating the Bailey Hill Fire Station will cost taxpayers \$800,000.

The maintenance part of the proposal provides \$2.8 million a year to maintain city buildings throughout Eugene. New construction is not an option in the proposal. The funding would last for 10 years, paying for modest cosmetic changes as well as making buildings handicapped accessible where it's needed.

The flagship of the measure is the new public library. Occupying the old Sears building downtown, coupled with a new addition on the east side, the library would provide 100,000 square feet of needed space. The fourth floor of the east wing, 23,000 square feet, would be reserved for city offices until the library needs the area for future expansion. The current library functions with 35,000 square feet, and many of the seats in the existing library have been traded in for books with a six-fold growth in text since the library opened in 1959.

Housed in the new library will be an impressive computer system that will offer personal computers to the public. Residents will be able to use library services from their homes via modem.

Putting the Bailey Hill Fire Station into service is the third part of the bond proposal. The station would put area residents within four minutes of fire and medical services. The bond does not include operating expenses.

Approving the proposed measure will result in increased tax rates for property owners. For every \$1,000 in assessed property value, owners can expect a 75-cent increase in taxes.

The bond proposal uses the library as a lure. Taxpayers would shun a tax increase to maintain city buildings or open a fire station. However, taxpayers, when polled, have already said they would approve a tax hike to pay for a new library. Using the library as a vehicle to pass less appealing tax increases is nothing short of politics and it's expected.

Eugene makes good use of its library. Last year, 62,043 people checked out material from the library 1.4 million times. The current facilities are operating in the dark ages and a new library is needed. Maintenance for city buildings and a fire station in Bailey Hill are services the city needs, but taxpayers would be slow to respond without something appealing, such as the library.

Approving the bond proposal on Tuesday would be a good move by area residents. All three parts of the measure would serve taxpayers well. The Eugene area is growing, and passing this measure would continue to stimulate growth.



## LETTERS

### Logical?

For the sake of openmindedness, Mr. Crawford, I'd be interested in hearing your "very logical and reasonable arguments" with which you claim to be able to back up your statement, "homosexuality is 'wrong' both morally and ethically" (ODE, May 10). Especially since you employ several non-"reasonable" tactics in your essay: You decry the "propaganda of the liberal left" while at the same time you use such propagandistic words as "insidious trend" and "thought cleansing"; you clearly misinterpret the intent of the articles by Lia Saliciccia and Tasha Eichenseher in order to back up your argument (merely making yourself appear defensive); you justify your queasiness about what homosexuals do beneath the sheets with the questionable assertion that it has been a "normal human reaction for most of society throughout time" (This strikes me as ironic, considering how you seem to be criticizing a follow-the-herd mentality).

I'm a little more openminded than you think — in other words, you'll have to try using slightly more "logical and reasonable arguments" to make me understand your point of view.

John Todoroff  
Music Education

### Applause

Thanks and applause for publishing Stephen Crawford's thoughtful and appropriate commentary (ODE, May 10). Stephen, I congratulate you for being brave enough to say what should have been said long ago.

I believe that everyone has a God-given right to choose his or her own lifestyle, as long as it does not harm others. I am heterosexual and have strong religious beliefs which do not condone a homosexual lifestyle. Many of my friends are gay. These people are my friends because we respect each other's personal freedom and our right to believe as we choose. No conflicts arise among us merely because they are in a societal

minority and I am not.

I respect the *Emerald's* efforts to fairly represent minority and racial issues in its daily coverage. Perhaps we of the majority could encourage the editors not to neglect or distort issues that concern us. Please don't make me feel guilty or out of touch merely because I happen to be a white heterosexual upper-class woman.

To those people everywhere who are members of a minority group, whoever you may be: Remember that every human being has a lifestyle and a heritage, and a right to live in freedom and dignity. May we live in mutual respect and love because of, not despite, our differences.

In other words, I honor your diversity. Won't you honor mine?

Rebecca M. Foster  
Theater Arts

### See all colors

I always felt there was an advantage in seeing in color. As a kid I felt sorry for my dog, who could only see in shades of gray. And I was envious of certain bugs who could see in ultraviolet. For those bugs it seemed as though a whole new world was opened up to them.

The other day I went outside to meet the spring and a town in bloom. It was then that somebody walked by in a "See No Color" T-shirt. I took in the thought, as I looked at the flowers around me, and began to feel frustrated. For I had seen the effort to push these T-shirts and the concept behind them. I began to wonder what was wrong with me that I couldn't accept this shirt's message. I began to wonder if my response was all that rare.

Was there something I wasn't supposed to see? Was there something wrong with the abilities that I had? Suppose there existed a bias for or against triangles. Then the T-shirt would have read "See No Shapes." A difficult demand, especially for those geometry majors.

I am all for "Assume Nothing"

to whatever degree that can be achieved. Yet, I don't understand encouraged color-blindness. Black, white, pale, brown, red, tan, and how about those unexplored regions of the color spectrum. I want to see it all and to ... "See All Colors." I'll be waiting to see that on a T-shirt.

Jake Blei  
Psychology

### Anyone

He is the proud owner of an AK and many other assorted deadly weapons. He's a macho stud that runs on beer and enjoys an occasional bar brawl. He is an ex-husband of mine.

Recently a tragic family funeral brought my ex and me together briefly. After the funeral we drank beer and talked. My lawsuit against the University came up and he was curious to know what had happened. I asked him if I could demonstrate physically the assault that I endured in George Kokis' class. He agreed to a re-enactment. I instructed him to relax, recline and pretend I wasn't there. When he seemed relaxed I pounced on top of him like a lion going in for the kill. I had a fixed ferocious stare as I growled and shook him savagely. For the first time in the 20 years I've known him, fear flashed in his eyes, which turned to a stone-cold glare of anger as he forcefully pushed me off.

Rubbing his shoulder with a perplexed, pained expression, he said, "No shittin', that's what he did to you?"

"Yeah, I thought he was a crazed rapist."

"I would have killed the motherfucker."

I shared this story in order to prove Jenifer Beckett wrong (ODE, April 28). In her letter she claims that my furious reaction to being assaulted in class was caused by the fact that I suffer from post-traumatic stress. The fact is, the manner in which I was attacked would terrify and traumatize any human being, like my ex, regardless of personal history.

Devon Gray  
Eugene

## Oregon Daily Emerald

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